

## Community Newsletter

# Southern Hume (Longwood) Fires 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **What is happening now:**

The fire has burnt 135,000 hectares, with a fire perimeter of 378km today. Today there are 610 personnel, with 5 aircraft assisting.

There is one Watch and Act currently in place.

### **Road access and safety**

A number of roads have been closed across the area due to recent fire impacts. Hazards include burnt infrastructure like bridges, potholes, and the heightened risk of falling trees which is extremely dangerous. Please be patient as our crews are working as quickly as they can to assess these roads to ensure safety and grant access to the public. You can view current road closures

Via VicTraffic: <https://traffic.transport.vic.gov.au/>

When roads re-open, it is important to remain vigilant and proceed with extreme caution to avoid hazards. This is also a timely reminder that if you are driving and pass an emergency vehicle, please safely slow down to 40km – it's the law.

This is to ensure the safety of our emergency service personnel as they respond to keep our communities safe.

Stay up-to-date with latest warnings via @VicEmergency

<https://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond>



### **Community Info Hubs**

#### **Strathbogie Shire**

Euroa Tourist and Information Centre, 50 Binney Street.

#### **Murrindindi Shire**

Yea Library, 15 The Semicircle  
Alexandra Library, 49 Grant Street

The Hubs provide information on services and supports available to impacted community members.



## Returning Home

### Emergency Recovery Hotline 1800 560 760 – (9am to 5pm)

- Financial Help
- Emergency accommodation
- Counselling & social help
- General Support & Information

 <https://www.vic.gov.au/january-2026-victorian-bushfires>

### Emergency Relief Centre locations

- **Mansfield Sporting Complex**  
35 Highett Street,
- **Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre**  
Pollard Street
- **Whittlesea Activity Centre**  
57/61 Laurel Street.

Monitor your local council's social media and website for more information on recovery.

**Register.Find.Reunite** [register.redcross.org.au](https://register.redcross.org.au)  
Let friends, family and emergency services know you are safe at or at a relief centres.

**Before you return home** stock up on basic nonperishable food, bottled water, medications and take protective clothing, boots, gloves and equipment like P2/N95 masks.

<https://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis/returning-home-and-coping-after-a-crisis/>

Consider impacts to your health and safety. More info: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthy-living/bushfire-aftermath-safety-tips>

### Bushfire Clean Up Program

This program will support uninsured and underinsured people. Register for updates at <https://www.vic.gov.au/recovery>



### Access to Drinking Water

Each household may be eligible to receive 20,000L of relief drinking water. Visit [Emergency relief drinking water 2026](#) to see if you are eligible and to fill out an online form.

For help with the form, call the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on [136 186 - press 0. Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm](#)

### Essential Water Replacement

Water used for firefighting can be replaced within 3 months of it being taken from your property. If essential water supplies run out, urgent replacement can be arranged.

### Register for water replacement

 customer call centre 136 186 and press 0.

 [emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au)

 <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery>

### Power and Phone

Mobile generators are being installed in some for the worst impacted communities where AusNet may not be able to restore power for some time.

### AusNet

 [www.ausnetservices.com.au/outages](http://www.ausnetservices.com.au/outages)

 Bushfire Support Line on **1300 561 171**.

### Telstra

 Disaster Support Hotline **1800 888 888**

Extra mobile data has been applied to customers in impacted areas. Telstra can also pause billing for services that cannot be used due to fire.

### Wildlife Welfare

 Report wildlife impacted by bushfire:  
**1300 322 060 (Southern Hume (Longwood))**  
or email [iccale.wildlife@icc.vic.gov.au](mailto:iccale.wildlife@icc.vic.gov.au)

Be careful if handling wildlife. Bites, scratches and stings have been reported in recent days.

**Fire grounds are dangerous, even after the fire front has passed. Individuals, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups must not enter the fire ground area to search for wildlife.**



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## Agriculture and Livestock

To request emergency fodder, contact the Victorian Farmers Federation VFF

☎ 1300 882 833 or [www.vff.org.au](http://www.vff.org.au)

🌐 <https://www.vff.org.au/vff-emergency-fodder-program/>

If you have urgent animal welfare needs, call  
☎ **VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226**  
then dial 0 (incident) then 3 (recovery).

**Report fire impacts to Agriculture Victoria online to help us direct support efforts where they are needed most.**

Please use the Loss and Damage form to report:

- Dead or injured animals
- Crop loss or damage
- Fodder and water needs

[Bushfires | Emergency management | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#)

For help with the form, call the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on **136 186 and press 0**.  
(Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm)

### Livestock Disposal

Disposal is managed by the landholder. Agriculture Victoria can support you with guidance, information and technical advice.

on **0407 145 007** or by email at [livestock.disposal@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:livestock.disposal@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Before burying livestock, **Dial Before You Dig by calling 1100** or go to [www.byda.com.au](http://www.byda.com.au) to avoid damaging your infrastructure.

Further information and support available at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires>

## Taking Care of Yourself

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event.

Look out for changes or signs that someone's mental health might be changing.

There is always help available through your doctor – request a Medicare Mental Health Plan.

### For immediate support

[Lifeline](#) - 131 114

[Beyond Blue](#) - 1300 224 636

[MensLine](#) - 1300 789 978

[Kid's Help Line](#) - 1800 55 1800

[Parent Line](#) - 13 22 89

[National Centre for Farmers Health](#) (03) 5551 8533

You can speak to a registered nurse 24 hours a day at **Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24**.

**Australian Red Cross** practical tips to help you cope physically and mentally after a crisis:

<http://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis/returning-home-and-coping-after-a-crisis/>

**Stress management** techniques are available <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/mental-health/what-is-stress#stress-management-techniques>

### Family Violence

☎ 1800 737 732 (1800RESPECT)

🌐 Visit [www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence](http://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence)

## Financial Support

### Financial Assistance

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments. Eligible people may receive a one-time payment to cover essentials like food, clothing, medication and accommodation.

- \$1,000 per adult
- \$400 per child

Further funding is available for those that have lost their homes including those uninsured. Free confidential wellbeing support alongside financial and business counselling is available via 📞 **Rural financial counselling** 1300 834 775

### Financial Assistance for Farms

An initial \$40 million in grants of up to \$75,000 will be provided to eligible primary producers, to help cover the costs of clean-up and reinstating their enterprises. Funding can be used for essential recovery activities such as disposing of stock, rebuilding or replacing damaged on-farm infrastructure and restoring operations.

[Financial assistance after a bushfire | Bushfires | Emergency management | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#)

### Business support

Information about support for businesses will become available in coming days.

- 🌐 Business Victoria website  
<https://business.vic.gov.au/>

### 2026 Victorian Bushfire Appeal

**100% of donations** go direct to those who need it most for immediate relief, long term recovery efforts, community projects and programs to regenerate wildlife and the environment.

[www.vic.gov.au/2026-Victorian-Bushfire-Appeal](http://www.vic.gov.au/2026-Victorian-Bushfire-Appeal)

📞 **1800 837 733 (9am to 5pm)**

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.  
Donations of food cannot be accepted, contact the Salvation Army if you wish to donate goods.

## Stay informed

Go to [www.givvit.org.au](http://www.givvit.org.au) to donate funds or give specific items people have requested.

📞 VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226

🌐 [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)

📻 **Emergency Radio Broadcasters**

### **Southern Hume (Longwood Fires) UGFM**

106.9 - Alexandra / Lake Eildon / Mansfield

88.9 - Yea / Highlands

98.5 - Marysville / Lake Mountain

98.9 - Flowerdale / Hazeldene

94.5 - Kinglake Ranges

### **Radio Mansfield - 99.7FM**

### **ABC**

91.1FM, 97.7FM – Euroa / Seymour

103.7FM – Mansfield

98.1FM – Yea / Highlands